

J.C. Watts, Jr.  
Chairman  
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business*

*Anticipated Floor Action:*  
**H.R. 350—Mandates Information Act**

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**H.R. 350—Mandates Information Act**

**Floor Situation:** The House will consider the rule and conduct general debate on H.R. 350 as its only order of business today. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted an open rule that provides one hour of debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Rules Committee. The rule makes a committee amendment in the nature of a substitute in order as base text. It waives points of order against the measure for containing provisions within the Budget Committee's jurisdiction, as well as House rules requiring that committee reports be available for three days before consideration. The rule accords priority in recognition to members who have their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. It allows the chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

**Summary:** H.R. 350 amends the 1974 Congressional Budget Act (*P.L. 93-344*) to require congressional committees to report on any bill or joint resolution that imposes a federal mandate on the private sector, which must include information from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) pertaining to the economic impact that the mandate may have on consumers, workers, and small businesses, including any disproportionate impact on particular regions or industries. Currently, CBO must estimate only the direct costs of all federal private sector mandates that exceed \$100 million, as well as the amount of federal financial assistance to private sector entities provided by the legislation. By requiring that CBO submit such a report, supporters of the measure seek to enhance the ability of the federal government to work with the private sector, while providing means by which Congress can be held more accountable for its legislative mandates. The bill also allows members to raise a point of order against consideration of any legislation that imposes a

private sector mandate if it is not feasible for CBO to have submitted an estimate. A separate debate and vote must then be held on whether to consider the measure.

The House passed a similar measure last year (H.R. 3534) by a vote of 279-132. H.R. 350 was introduced by Mr. Condit and was reported by the Rules Committee by voice vote on February 2, 1999.

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #2, January 29, 1999

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